

**\*\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY, OCT. 18 at  
9:30 A.M. EDT\*\*\***

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR



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## **Governor Perdue Funds Pre-K Expansion to Cover Up to 6,300 Additional Children**

*1,000 can be served immediately, with the remainder enrolled by Jan. 1*

**GREENSBORO, NC** — North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue today issued Executive Order No. 128 authorizing the expansion of the NC Pre-K program to serve up to 6,300 additional children by Jan. 1, 2013. An estimated 1,000 of those children can begin to be served immediately in Pre-K classrooms across the state.

The governor made the announcement today at the Early Childhood Center of the West Market United Methodist Church in downtown Greensboro, where she was joined by Robin Britt, executive director of Guilford Child Development, Teri Smith, program administrator at the Early Childhood Center, and Kim Hughes, a former North Carolina teacher of the year.

On August 21, the North Carolina Court of Appeals unanimously affirmed a lower court ruling mandating that the State not deny any eligible “at-risk” four year old admission to the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program.

“Through good economic times and bad, North Carolina’s enduring commitment has been to educate our children. Now more than ever, as we sit poised for an economic recovery, any delay in preparing our kids to be tomorrow’s workforce is simply unacceptable,” Gov. Perdue said. “After the General Assembly cut early education